

**HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL PROTOZOOLOGY**—For Medical Men, Parasitologists and Zoologists. By Cecil A. Hoare, D.Sc. (Lond.), Protozoologist to the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine, London. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$7.00.

This typically English textbook is designed to cover the field of protozoology only, and with reference to Great Britain only and presumably especially for the (medical) undergraduate and general practitioner for whom such provision is practically non-existent. The subject matter of this book covers an excellent introduction, 61 out of 321 pages. Here are nicely discussed the general features, classification and ecology of the protozoa. From the clinical viewpoint the subject matter is limited to protozoa, therefore actually to "amoebas," Leishmania, trypanosomes and the very minor groups of flagellates, Coccidia and ciliates, most of which are non-pathogenic (like most of the amoebas also).

This volume is a valuable aid for medical persons who need such a protozoology as limited above. For American physicians and medical students its usefulness would be considerably less than the more complete parasitologies by Craig and Faust, Chandler, Sawitz and Belden.

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**POSTGRADUATE GASTROENTEROLOGY.** As presented in a course given under the sponsorship of the American College of Physicians in Philadelphia, December 1948. Edited by Henry L. Bockus, M.D., Professor of Gastroenterology, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, 1950. \$10.00.

As stated in its preface, this book represents in printed form the subject matter covered in a postgraduate course of gastroenterology given during a single week in December 1948 under the auspices of the American College of Physicians.

The subject matter covered in this postgraduate course of gastroenterology was presented mostly in the form of symposia and panel discussions and the proceedings are so transcribed in this volume.

Many well known physicians, authorities in the field of gastroenterology or closely allied fields, took part in the course and they came principally from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine, from Jefferson Medical College and Temple University Medical School, and in addition other well known gastroenterologists from New York, as well as surgeons, radiologists and professors of the physiological sciences. In all there were 53 physicians and scientists who took part in this postgraduate course of gastroenterology.

It was enjoyable to find a discussion of the common, everyday disturbance of pyrosis and a chapter dealing with gastric secretion in health and disease, describing the modifying effects of parasympathomimetic drugs, mucin, and also the value of the various methods of gastric analysis.

The subject of gastric neoplasm is interestingly discussed as to diagnosis from roentgenologic and cytologic aspects, its surgical treatment, and prognosis. One gains the impression that the five-year survival rate is higher in the surveys mentioned than in certain other reports of a large series of cases.

The subject of peptic ulcer is discussed as to diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment and with a very live panel discussion of the values of vagotomy. Dr. Bockus' own view was not one of enthusiasm at that time and he felt that much more experience with an extended follow-up over a period of years was necessary before the true value of this surgical measure of therapy could be ascertained.

Other chapters deal with psychosomatic, psychiatric and functional disturbance of the gastrointestinal system, food allergy, a very thorough discussion of pancreatic physiology, the function of potassium in the body, the treatment of intestinal obstruction, the differential diagnosis of jaundice

and the physiology of biliary dyssynergia. Still another chapter on chronic ulcerative colitis discusses this disease in respect to the studies on lysozyme activity, nitrogen metabolism, and its surgical treatment, while the last chapter deals with carcinoma of the colon.

Reading this text is very refreshing because of the method of presentation of the various subjects, followed by panel discussion with questions and answers. One can almost feel that he too is in attendance at this postgraduate course in gastroenterology. Dr. Bockus is to be congratulated for the organization of such a thorough course by prominent physicians and surgeons, and for his efforts to bring together all the subject matter presented, then to edit it and have it published. It is a valuable service to all who are interested in gastroenterology and who cannot attend such courses of postgraduate study. It is hoped that the American College of Physicians will have the subject matter of other of its postgraduate courses presented in book form for which this volume sets an admirable example.

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**TEXTBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGY.** By Joseph M. Dougherty, A.M., M.A., Ph.D., Dean of the School of Science and Professor of Bacteriology, Villanova College; and Anthony J. Lamberti, B.S., M.S., Instructor in Bacteriology and Parasitology, Temple University. Second Edition. 141 Illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1950. \$5.75.

Textbooks of bacteriology have flowed across this reviewer's desk in a steady stream for the last several years. He constantly wonders what stimulus there is to the continued production of books in a field which is already surfeited with many excellent texts. This one has been designed, according to the authors, for use in the teaching of bacteriology to premedical, pre dental, and pretechnological students. If it is accepted that it is desirable to burden the already crowded curriculum in these years with a course in bacteriology, then this text might well be suitable for the purpose for which it is intended. It is simply written, discussions of the various topics are reasonably brief, and presumably it could be read with profit by students with a minimum of previous scientific training. The authors struggle with the usual difficulties arising in this sort of work when the descriptions of the microorganisms themselves are left behind and discussion of the host-parasite relationship and disease states is attempted. This is particularly apparent here when treatment is under discussion. A preliminary chapter, which seems excessively long, is devoted to the chemistry and description of the various antimicrobial agents. In spite of this fact, the sections on the use of these substances in various disease states are strangely old-fashioned, and sound as if they had not been rewritten for this edition.

A few specific criticisms also may be made of the book. A bibliography is appended as footnotes throughout the work, and many of the references are to original articles published many years ago. The inclusion of these for historical purposes is of interest, but if beginning students are to be interested in the consultation of original sources a substantial number of those listed must be current summaries of knowledge in readily available journals published in English. Two chapters could well have been omitted. One of these is a morphological description of the blood which does not belong in a textbook of bacteriology; the other is a 24-page discussion of the precise techniques for the performance of the complement-fixation test, which need not be considered in this detail in a beginning course which should be devoted largely to principles.

In summary, this is not a very interesting nor stimulating text, and it contributes no new thoughts, pedagogic or scientific. It will probably be satisfactory for beginning students but is not highly recommended.